



## ***Fostering Critical and Creative Thinking and Problem Solving through Practical, and Engaging Differentiated Instructional Strategies***

**Day:** Wednesday, November 18, 2009

**Session:** 10:45 am – Noon

**Room:** Mohave West

### **Presenter:**

**Peter Laing** – [Peter.Laing@azed.gov](mailto:Peter.Laing@azed.gov)

Director of Gifted Education/Advanced Placement  
Arizona Department of Education

### **Session Description:**

Focusing on the strengths students bring to the classroom truly honors (and also can help to identify) their potential and talents – and serves as a catalyst for ensuring their ongoing positive academic, intellectual, social and emotional development. Here you'll learn and participate in practical and engaging classroom strategies that do capitalize on your student's diverse strengths, backgrounds, and experiences - such as their sense of competition, rhythm and rhyme, their preference for socially-embedded collaborative experiences, and their desire to share their own personal stories.

### **Presenter Information:**

**Peter Laing** currently serves as the Director of Gifted Education/ Advanced Placement for the Arizona Department of Education. Prior to joining the Department, Peter most recently served as Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator for Project Bright Horizon, a four-year U.S. Department of Education Jacob K. Javits gifted education research and demonstration grant, focused on designing effective systems and methods for identifying and developing talent and potential in culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse learners. Peter currently serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for the Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented (AAGT), Chair of the Special Populations Network and as a member of the Legislative Guideline Committee of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), and is a founding Co-Chair of the new Gifted and Advanced Learners Network of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).